

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 have been amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 would be pending.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13, 14, 16-18, 21, 22 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda (US 4,569,585) and further in view of Pinzarrone (US 5,956,158). Claims 7, 15, and 23 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda '585 and 'Pinzarrone '158 as applied to claims 1, 10, and 18 above and further in view of Juve '428.

Independent claims 1, 10, 18 and 26, as amended, are generally directed to arrangements involving an image reading apparatus with an image sensing unit for reading an image and an interface connected to the external apparatus through an interface cable and which transfers an image signal read by the image sensing unit to an external apparatus. The image reading apparatus operates with power supplied from an external power supply, and the image reading apparatus is set to the sleep state if unplugging of the interface cable of the interface is detected.

These claims have been further amended to reflect that the interface cable and the cable for supplying power from the external power supply are physically different cables, and that the abnormality (as previously recited) is unplugging of the interface cable.

As reflected in the claims, when the interface cable is unplugged and the external power supply normally supplies power to the image reading apparatus, the controller sets the image reading apparatus in a sleep state to save energy supplied from the external power supply.

By contrast, in Pinzarrone (USP 5,956,158), power is supplied from the USB cable. If the USB cable is unplugged, power supply is naturally stopped.

Masuda (USP 4,569,585) discloses, when AC power supply experiences any abnormal condition, to deenergize the main motor and the exposure lamp to prevent the damage to the copying machine (column 7, lines 31-41). Thus, Masuda explains a countermeasure to the case where power supply from the main power supply suddenly stops.

Whereas, the power is supplied to the image reading apparatus via the exclusive cable for power supply in the claimed arrangements, and even if the interface cable is unexpectedly unplugged, the power is kept supplied via the cable. As the power is kept supplied, the present invention sets the image reading apparatus in a sleep mode to save energy.

Thus, the claimed arrangements are different from Pinzorrone and Masuda in configuration as well as for example problem to be solved and effect. Accordingly, claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 and their dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

Respectfully submitted,
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